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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-third session
Substantive session, 9 June-3 July 2003
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

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9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-third session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination reaffirmed its decision made at its twenty-fourth session that the post of the Chairman, as well as the other posts on the Bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups in the following pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Eastern European States; (c) Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Group of Western European and other States; and (e) Group of Asian States.

At its forty-third session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chairman from the Group of Asian States in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman, and the Rapporteur from the regional group that had occupied the post of Chairman the previous year, namely the Group of Western European and other States.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its forty-third session, together with the list of documentation requested. The Assembly, in its resolution 57/282, endorsed the provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Committee. The present provisional agenda and list of documentation also take into account decisions taken by the Council and the Assembly since the last session of the Committee.

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX), the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the economic, social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee, which shall report thereon to the Council and the Assembly. In that connection, the Committee will select, under agenda item 2, the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit for consideration by the Committee at its forty-third session under agenda item 6.

Pursuant to Assembly resolutions 53/207 and 54/236 and decision 54/474 on the revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, attention is drawn to Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2000/8, containing the approved Regulations and Rules.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session (E/AC.51/2003/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work (E/AC.51/2003/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat containing a list of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (E/AC.51/2003/L.3)

Note by the Secretariat on the current notional costs of documentation and interpretation services (E/AC.51/2003/L.4)

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

In its resolution 54/236, the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the work of its thirty-ninth session, including that a progress report on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations should be submitted biennially to the General Assembly through the appropriate intergovernmental bodies.

Documentation

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (A/58/__)

4. Programme questions

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Pursuant to its terms of reference (see Council resolution 2008 (LX), annex), the Committee will consider the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

In accordance with the Regulations and Rules, the Secretary-General shall provide the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with advance copies of the proposed programme budget by the end of April of the year preceding the budgetary period; the Committee for Programme and Coordination shall prepare a report on the proposed programme budget, containing its programme recommendations and its general assessment of the related resource proposals, and the Committee shall receive a statement by the Secretary-General on the programme implications of its recommendations.

It will be recalled that, in line with the budgetary process established by the Assembly in its resolution 41/213, the Committee, at its forty-second session, considered the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. In examining the outline, the Committee used, as a framework, the four elements listed in paragraph 1 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/85), in accordance with Assembly resolution 41/213, annex I.

In its resolution 57/280, the Assembly endorsed the relevant conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-second session,[1] and the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/636), and reaffirmed that the proposed programme budget outline should contain an indication of the following:

(a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources.

The Assembly invited the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of 2,876 million United States dollars at revised 2002-2003 rates.

The Assembly decided to consider, in addition to the preliminary estimates, provisions for information technology and common services facilities infrastructure in the amount of 29.8 million United States dollars in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, bearing in mind the comments of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 5 of his report.

The Assembly also decided that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology.

The Assembly further decided that the priorities for the biennium 2004-2005 are the following:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The Assembly decided that the contingency fund should be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate of 21.6 million United States dollars, that that amount should be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate and that it should be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (A/58/6) (in fascicle form)

(b) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Regulation 4.13 of the Regulations and Rules read as follows:

"The medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes; revisions to the plan shall be considered by the General Assembly one year before the submission of the proposed programme budget providing for implementation of the changes. The

proposed revisions shall be as detailed as necessary to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and international conferences since the adoption of the plan."

In its resolution 55/234, section I, the Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, together with the relevant recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the additional conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to that resolution.

In its resolution 57/282, the Assembly reaffirmed that the medium-term plan was the principal policy directive of the United Nations and that it should serve as the framework for the next biennial programme budget.

In the same resolution, the Assembly noted the recommendations of the Committee that the Secretary-General submit proposals for revisions to programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan so as to reflect the review by the Assembly at its current session of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, and requested the Secretary-General to submit those proposals through the Committee, at its forty-third session, for consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

The Assembly also noted the recommendation of the Committee that the Secretary-General submit proposals for revisions to programme 8, Africa: New Agenda for Development, of the medium-term plan so as to reflect the final review and appraisal by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and any other relevant legislative mandates, and requested the Secretary-General to submit those revisions through the Committee, at its forty-third session, for consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005: programme 7, Economic and social affairs (A/58/__)

Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005: programme 8, Africa: New Agenda for Development" (A/58/__)

(c) Evaluation

(i) Proposed evaluation themes for a pilot project

In paragraph 257 of its report on its forty-second session, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with proposing themes for consideration by the Committee at its forty-third session, at which time the Committee would consider commissioning a pilot project on one theme. The pilot project would subsequently be considered by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. The usefulness of that pilot project would be considered by the Committee at its forty-fifth session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on proposed evaluation themes (E/AC.51/2003/2)

(ii) In-depth evaluation

The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/282, decided to approve the following schedule of in-depth evaluations to be submitted to the Committee at its forty-third, forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions, respectively: (a) law of the sea and ocean affairs; (b) public administration, finance and development; and (c) human settlements.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the law of the sea and ocean affairs (E/AC.51/2003/3)

(iii) Triennial review

At its forty-third session, the Committee will undertake a triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fortieth session on the evaluation of global development trends, issues and policies, global approaches to social and microeconomic issues and policies, and the corresponding subprogrammes in the regional commissions, and on the evaluation of the advancement of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fortieth session on the in-depth evaluation of global development trends, issues and policies, global approaches to social and microeconomic issues and policies, and the corresponding subprogrammes in the regional commissions (E/AC.51/2003/4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fortieth session on the in-depth evaluation of the advancement of women (E/AC.51/2003/5)

5. Coordination questions

(a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

In accordance with Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2002.

In section V of its resolution 57/282, the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on the work of its forty-second session regarding the annual overview report of the CEB for 2001 (E/2002/55). The Assembly stressed that inter-agency coordination in the field of management should

be further strengthened and recommended that progress made in that regard be reflected in future CEB reports.

In paragraph 319 of its report on its forty-second session, the Committee expressed its support for the priority attention given by CEB to the sustainable development of Africa and for its efforts to foster system-wide commitments by organizations of the United Nations system, as well as its role in coordinating the implementation of relevant intergovernmental mandates for systematically mobilizing the necessary support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The Committee requested that CEB continue to monitor and report on system-wide support for the NEPAD initiative in the context of its annual overview reports.

In paragraph 320 of its report, the Committee noted with satisfaction the transition of former ACC and its subsidiary machinery to CEB, which should assist CEB in better implementing its tasks to strengthen coordination in the United Nations system, and in that regard recommended that CEB reflect the practical results of the transition in its annual report.

In paragraph 322 of its report, the Committee reaffirmed the important role of CEB in coordinating the implementation of the relevant intergovernmental mandates for mobilizing and monitoring the economic assistance provided by the international community and the United Nations system to States confronted with special economic problems arising from the implementation of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council, and in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States and providing support to the efforts of States affected by the developments in the Balkans for their economic recovery, structural adjustment and development, and in that regard recommended that CEB continue to report on the progress of its work in that field in the context of its annual overview reports.

Documentation

Annual overview report of CEB for 2002 (E/2003/___)

(b) New Partnership for Africa's Development

In section V of its resolution 57/282, the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee,[2] regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa in the context of the final evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Committee at its forty-third session on the future engagement of the United Nations system with NEPAD.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the future engagement of the United Nations system with NEPAD (E/AC.51/2003/6)

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

Under this item, the Committee will consider the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) selected by the Committee during its organizational meeting on 2 May 2003.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to Assembly resolution 42/218, in which the Assembly requested all bodies of the United Nations system to examine closely those JIU reports which were within their respective areas of competence and to comment, as appropriate, on the recommendations contained therein. The attention of the Committee is also drawn to Assembly resolution 45/237.

In its resolution 48/221, the Assembly, inter alia, invited JIU, in its future work programmes, to put more emphasis on inspection and evaluation to ensure optimum use of funds in order to enhance the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations system. It also requested JIU, when appropriate, to provide in its reports information on estimated financial implications or possible cost savings resulting from implementation of the recommendations formulated therein.

In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon JIU to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations and to include the relevant information regularly in its annual reports. The Assembly also invited JIU to maintain a close relationship with the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the International Civil Service Commission, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Board of Auditors, the Panel of External Auditors and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in order to ensure greater and more cost-effective coordination of their respective activities for the promotion of management efficiency, greater accountability and transparency of the United Nations and other participating organizations, and requested the executive heads of the participating organizations to increase their efforts to make detailed and timely comments on JIU reports and to ensure that their governing bodies considered those reports.

Furthermore, in paragraph 5 (e) (iii) of its resolution 48/218 B, in which it established the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Assembly decided that the Board of Auditors and JIU should be provided with copies of all final reports produced by the Office as well as the comments of the Secretary-General on them and shall provide the Assembly with their comments, as appropriate.

In its resolution 50/233, the Assembly requested JIU to continue to focus its reports on important priority items, identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations on precisely defined issues. It also requested JIU to issue its reports well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs of participating organizations so that the reports can be thoroughly and effectively utilized by those organs.

In its resolution 54/16, the Assembly invited the Unit, while preparing its annual programme of work, to give priority to the reports requested by the participating organizations. It also endorsed the system of follow-up to JIU reports (see A/54/841, annex I), and in that connection invited JIU to include in its annual reports approved recommendations that had not been implemented.

In its resolution 55/230, the Assembly stressed the importance of timely consideration of JIU reports by all participating organizations. In the same resolution, it invited JIU to continue to develop interaction with other United Nations oversight bodies and to intensify relations with the oversight bodies of other

participating organizations with a view to better coordination and sharing best practices.

In its resolution 56/245, the Assembly invited JIU to improve the presentation of the listing of potential reports for the following year and beyond by providing information on the source, including legislative basis, objectives, problems to be addressed, duration and expected date of completion, and to present such information before the final quarter of each year.

In its resolution 57/284, the Assembly reiterated its request to the executive heads of participating organizations to observe fully the time frame for submitting their comments, as called for in article 11, subparagraphs 4 (d) and (e), of the JIU statute.

The Assembly also reiterated its resolution 50/233 on the need for JIU to place emphasis in its work on well-defined and timely items of high priority, that identify concrete managerial administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations.

The Assembly also stressed the need for JIU to pay special attention to the preparation of reports that are more evaluation-oriented.

In its resolution 57/__, the General Assembly requested the Committee to consider at its forty-third session the JIU report entitled "The results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration" (A/57/372), and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of CEB thereon (A/57/372/Add.1), and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

Documentation

JIU report entitled "The results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration" (A/57/372)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of CEB thereon (A/57/372/Add.1)

JIU report(s)

7. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate

At its forty-second session, the Committee considered the item entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate" and reaffirmed the conclusions and recommendations adopted on its working methods and procedures at its thirty-eighth, thirty-ninth, fortieth and forty-first sessions. In its resolution 57/282, the Assembly requested the Committee to continue to observe its methods of governing the drafting and format of its reports. The Assembly also encouraged the Committee to continue its discussions on improving its working methods and procedures within the framework of its mandate with a view to further enhancing its effectiveness and continued relevance.

In paragraph 33 of its resolution 57/300, entitled "The strengthening of the United Nations: An agenda for further change", the Assembly reaffirmed the roles of its

Fifth Committee, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in the intergovernmental consideration of the planning, programming and budgeting process. In the same resolution, the Assembly invited the Committee for Programme and Coordination to continue to improve its working methods.

8. Provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-fourth session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Committee to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Committee, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Committee (E/AC.51/2003/L.5)

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-third session

The report of the Committee on its forty-third session will be submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 2003 and to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16).
[2] Ibid., paras. 324-338.

Annex

Members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for 2003*

	Term expires on 31 December
Argentina	2005
Armenia	2005
Bahamas	2003
Benin	2005
Botswana	2003
Brazil	2005
Central African Republic	2005
China	2004
Cuba	2005
Ethiopia	2004
France	2003
Gabon	2005
Germany	2005
India	2005
Indonesia	2005
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2005
Japan	2004
Mexico	2003
Monaco	2005
Nicaragua	2005
Nigeria	2004
Pakistan	2005
Republic of Korea	2004
Republic of Moldova	2005
Russian Federation	2003
South Africa	2005
Switzerland	2005
Tunisia	2004
Ukraine	2005
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2005
United Republic of Tanzania	2003
United States of America	2003
Uruguay	2004

* One vacant seat remains to be filled from among the Western European and other States.